(b) No specific demand has been made by private agencies, however, National policy on handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains announced by the Government envisages various incentives including guaranteed capacity utilization for 20 years *i.e.* 100% capacity utilization for first ten years and 75% utilization for next ten years.

(c) Various other incentives offered by the Government to the private sector are as follows:

(i) measures such as Build-Own-Operate (BOO)

(ii) generation of funds through public issues by private enterprises

(iii) automatic approval for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 100%

(iv) loans from financial institutions, NABARD, external commercial borrowings

(v) fiscal incentives as given below:

(a) 100% deductions in profit for purposes of income tax for first 5 years

(b) 30% deductions in profit for the same purpose for next 5 years.

(c) Deductions of 40% of the profit derived by financial institutions financing such projects, as provided to financial corportion engaged, *inter alia,* in providing long term finance for agricultural development

(d) Customs duty exemption for items not manufactured in India, on a case-to-case basis, subject to a list of such equipment being submitted in advance.

Quality of imported food-items

3853. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent survey conducted by the CII reveals that 70 per cent of the imported food-items did not qualify the country's food laws;

(b) whether it is also a fact that they are not even qualifying the international standard specifications;

(c) if so, whether Government have identified such items imported into the country; and

(d) the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (d) As reported by CII, no survey of the imported food-items has been conducted in the recent period. However, CII made its observations with regard to violation of laws in respect of 123 food articles collected by PFA Department, Government of NCT, Delhi prior to October, 2000. A similar survey carried out by CII in April, 2000 indicated that items, mostly not qualifying to the ingredients permitted under PFA Act, were confectionery items, flavoured milk, drinks and fruit juices.

So far as foodgrains are concerned, no foodgrain has been imported on Government account for the last three years. However, foodgrains imported by the Government of India through STC prior to 1998 conformed/complied food laws/PPQ requirements.

Issue price of wheat

3854. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether issue price of wheat to flour mills in the Western zone is much higher than the issue price in the Northern zone;

(b) whether it is a fact that higher issue price leads to higher price for wheat-based products;

(c) whether Government of Gujarat has requested the Central Government to reduce the issue price of wheat to flour mills;

(d) if so, whether Government have agreed to the request; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?